

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank S. Bacio
Vito Cannella
Maxine B. Russell

Excused Absence

John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff
Tut Hayes, Advocate

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Russell and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of September 14, 2005 were approved with the following corrections:

Page 2, last paragraph heading should read: ...Girls Satellite/North Hill Main Campus - #55-1.

Page 3, 3rd paragraph, heading should read: ...Program -Santa Ana Anita.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 5, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Russell and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of October 5, 2005 were approved with the following corrections:

Page 2, Affirmative Action Group Home rating should read: Satisfactory Needs Improvement.

Page 3, Hillside's Home for Children rating should read: Satisfactory Excellent.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montano reported that she is a board member of the Gang Alternative Project and as such she was invited to speak to the youth (12 yrs. to 17 yrs.) at the Harbor Vista Community Meeting on October 5th. She noted that there was standing room only and not one gang member in the room. The youth were very attentive and had so many questions she was asked to speak at future community meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$1,102.02.

STAFF REPORT

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff, distributed copies of a October 12th Antelope Valley Press article regarding the Board of Supervisors call for a new plan to address the staffing, training and programming needs at the County Probation Department.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Affirmative Action Group Home - #1-1

Chair Montano inspected this facility on October 11th and found that the items needing resolution as noted on the Auditor-Controller's Corrective Action Report have been corrected. However, because the non-compliance issues at this facility have been on-going for a number of years, the Commission has requested that the Auditor-Controller schedule a fiscal audit for this facility. Chair Montano suggested that the physical audit that

was scheduled for this facility be postponed for several months in order to more accurately judge the facility's continued compliance.

Jay Cee Dee Children's Home - #59-3

Vice Chair Stathatos inspected this facility on October 6th and noted that the facility was undergoing a major renovation and was therefore unable to complete her inspection. Vice Chair Stathatos will schedule a follow-up inspection within 6 weeks.

McKinley Boys Home/Nashport - #68-3

Vice Chair Stathatos inspected this facility on October 11th and that this was an excellent facility and a model for others to follow; no areas of concern were observed or reported.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Russell reported that she recently attended the Nexus 10th Anniversary Training Conference, sponsored in part by ICAN, and was very impressed with several speakers, but was disappointed with the presentations from the various County department representatives. Among the featured speakers were the following:

- Joshua DeLeeuw, former foster youth from Oregon, whose speech was inspirational. He was abused, neglected, became a prostitute at 13, arrested but rescued from the system by a Public Defender who recognized his potential. Mr. DeLeeuw is now a psychologist.
- Azim Khamisa: his son was murdered; he developed an inner-city school program that teaches peace and forgiveness.
- John Hill, Supervisor Burke's Chief of Staff, who is a former foster youth, gave a wonderful heartfelt speech which stress that we shouldn't judge a book by its cover and that education can never be taken away from you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Tut-Hayes, Advocate, advised the Commission of several issues at the Twin Towers Jail that he feels are unacceptable; among which are:

- Elevators not working on a regular basis;
- No sanitary supplies in the bathrooms in the inmate reception areas;
- Interior stairwells are filthy

The Commission will schedule an immediate inspection of the Twin Towers facility.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates

Commission Services